Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for providing SMS messages to a ~~user having~~ receiving party associated with a plurality of devices ~~including a preferred device~~, the method comprising:

receiving a SMS message for [[one]] a first device of the plurality of devices;

~~determining the preferred device for receiving messages~~ identifying a second device of the plurality of devices as a preferred device for receiving the SMS message based on information stored by the receiving party;

formatting the SMS message according to characteristics of the preferred device; and

sending the formatted message to the preferred device.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to a SMS-capable device.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to an e-mail address.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to an instant messenger client.

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5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted

message comprises sending the formatted message as a voice message to a phone.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message

comprises sending the formatted message to digital companion client software.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, comprising:

storing messages in a database when the user's preferred device is not available to

receive messages.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing SMS messages to a user having

associated with a plurality of devices including a preferred device, comprising:

a database for storing a specification of a preferred device information identifying

each device of the plurality of devices and identifying a first device of the plurality of devices as

a preferred device;

a gateway server for receiving a SMS message sent to one identifying a second

device of the user's plurality of devices;

a server function for determining the preferred device identifying the preferred

device in response to receiving the SMS message, the preferred device being different than the

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second device; and

       a SMS server for sending the SMS message to the preferred device.

10.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the SMS server comprises a server that stores messages to a database when the ~~user's~~ preferred device is not available to receive messages.

11.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[8]] 9, wherein the SMS server comprises a server that formats the SMS message in accordance with characteristics of the preferred device before sending the message to the preferred device.

12.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing SMS messages to a user ~~having~~ associated with a plurality of devices ~~including a preferred device~~, comprising:

       means for storing a specification of a preferred device;

       means for receiving a SMS message ~~sent to~~ identifying one device of the ~~user's~~ plurality of devices;

       means for ~~determining~~ selecting the preferred device in response to receiving the SMS message, the preferred device being different than the identified one device; and

       means for sending the SMS message to the preferred device.

13.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the means for sending the SMS message comprises means for storing messages to a database when the ~~user's~~ preferred

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device is not available to receive messages.

14.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[8]] 12, wherein the means for

sending the SMS message comprises means for formatting the SMS message in accordance with

characteristics of the preferred device before sending the message to the preferred device.

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (New) A method comprising:

       receiving a SMS message including information identifying a first destination

device;

       identifying a second destination device in response to receiving the SMS message,

the second destination device being different than the first destination device;

       formatting the SMS message based on the second destination device; and

       sending the formatted SMS message to the second destination device.

17.   (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the first destination device and the

second destination device are associated with a receiving party, and

       wherein the identifying includes:

              identifying the second destination device based on a profile associated

with receiving party.

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